

CITYSCAPE

March 2008 Edition

Mayor's Corner

Tigard's Citizen Active Neighborhood Network (CAN Network) program is under way! Over 150 Tigard residents attended the program kick-off hosted by the city at the Library Community Room in early February.

Attendees learned about resources available through the program, how the neighborhood web sites operate, drew potential neighborhood trail locations on a map, and took away "News You Can Use" resource folders.

The resource folders contain a neighborhood boundary map and brief descriptions of all the resources available to empower Tigard citizens to be involved as partners in addressing neighborhood issues and strengthening connections between neighbors and the city.

One of the City Council goals for 2008 is to support the neighborhood program. Although citizens in the city view some issues from a citywide perspective, more often the issues that affect citizens on a day-to-day basis are unique to their neighborhood.

I encourage all citizens to get involved in their neighborhood and with the city. Check out the information on the city's web site at www.tigard-or.gov/neighborhood or contact Liz Newton at liz@tigard-or.gov or 503-718-2412 to request a copy of the "News You Can Use" folder.



Craig E. Dirksen, Mayor

Citizens Police Academy: It Only Happens Once a Year!

The Tigard Police Department is accepting applications from citizens who would like to participate in the upcoming Citizens Police Academy.

The purpose of the academy is to create better understanding and communication between citizens and police through education. When the community understands the abilities and limitations of law enforcement, the police can better serve the community.

The academy sessions are presented by members of the Tigard Police Department and cover a wide range of topics including:

- Investigations
- Training
- Defensive Tactics
- Weapons
- Narcotics
- School Resource Officers
- Peer Court
- Youth Programs

Enrollment is limited to 20 participants and applications will be accepted until March 20. The academy will be conducted on eight



consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Tigard City Hall. The training will begin April 9 and conclude June 4, 2008.

Applications are available in the Tigard Police Department lobby, on-line at www.tigard-or.gov/police or you

**The 2008 Citizens
Police Academy will
begin April 9 and
conclude June 4.**

can contact Jim Wolf at 503-718-2561. Return completed applications in person or by mail to the Tigard Police Department, fax to 503-718-2645 or email to jim@tigard-or.gov.

For more information, contact Public Information Officer Jim Wolf at 503-718-2561 during business hours or anytime at jim@tigard-or.gov.



Tree Hazards on Your Property?

Most people are well aware of the environmental and aesthetic benefits provided by trees in our community. While the benefits are many, it is also important for us to recognize dangerous situations that can arise as trees age or are improperly maintained.

In Tigard, it is a property owner's responsibility to ensure the safety of trees on their property and street trees abutting their property.

Although such situations are rare, trees or parts of trees may fall and injure people or damage property. Avoid accidents by hiring an experienced, certified arborist to inspect potentially dangerous trees. To find a certified arborist in our area visit www.pnwisa.org or call 503-874-8263.



You Might Need a Permit

Before any trees are removed, check with the city to determine whether a tree removal permit is required.

Contact Todd Prager, Tigard's City Arborist, at 503 718-2700 or todd@tigard-or.gov to find out more about tree removal requirements, tree industry standards, and how to recognize tree hazards. If everyone does their part in preventing hazardous situations, we can all enjoy our community's trees.

House Plans Available

Blueprints or drawings of homes built or modified in Tigard between 2004 and 2005 may be available. Plans are free and will only be released to the homeowner. Photo ID will be required at the time of pick up.

To find out if the city has your house plans, contact Records Specialist Lora Garland at 503-718-2483 or cityrecords@tigard-or.gov.

Rain Garden Percolates at Fowler Middle School

Rain water runoff is the leading cause of pollution in our urban waterways. Rain, across rooftops, sidewalks, streets and parking lots, picks up pollutants and carries them to our creeks and streams. This means substances like fertilizer, oil, pesticides, and pet waste can end up in our waterways.

When Fowler Middle School students learned rain water from the school's parking lot was channeled into a neighboring creek, they were concerned. The students, led by teacher Sue Manning, set out to see if they could do something to improve the situation.

That's when the students discovered "rain gardens."

Rain gardens are shallow depressions in the ground that capture rain water runoff from impervious surfaces. Rain gardens offer several benefits:

- ◆ *The flowers, grasses and shrubs that are incorporated into these gardens absorb the pollutants contained in runoff.*
- ◆ *Water collected in rain gardens filters through the soil and replenishes ground water.*



Newly installed rain garden at Fowler

- ◆ *During heavy rain, rain gardens reduce flooding by capturing and containing runoff that would normally be directed to local waterways.*

With their new-found knowledge, Fowler students took on the rain garden project. First, they were treated to an artificial rainstorm in the parking lot by utility crews using a water truck. The students measured the size of the drainage area, timed how long it took water to infiltrate the soil, and calculated the size of the rain garden needed. Next, rain garden plants were selected and, with the help of Clean Water Services' crews, the rain garden became a reality.

For their initiative and hard work, Clean Water Services has recognized Ms. Manning and the Fowler students as Clean Water Heroes. Are you interested in following their lead? To learn if a rain garden might benefit your property, visit www.tigard.gov/stormwater or contact Volunteer and Water Quality Program Coordinator Carla Staedter at 503-718-2788 or carla@tigard-or.gov.

Irrigation System?

It's Time to Test Your Backflow Prevention Device

If you have an in-ground lawn irrigation system, then you also have a backflow prevention device. This important device prevents stagnant or potentially contaminated water from being drawn back into our drinking water supply. To ensure these devices are working properly, state law requires annual testing. A person

All Tigard Water Service Area
Customers are required
to have their
backflow prevention devices
tested by
JUNE 1, 2008.

who is state-certified in backflow testing must perform the test.

More information and a list of companies offering testing services are available on the city's web site at www.tigard-or.gov/backflow

or by contacting Water Quality Program Coordinator Hung Nguyen at 503-718-2603 or hung@tigard-or.gov.



What Have We Learned from the Comprehensive Plan So Far?

The city's effort to completely update its Comprehensive Plan has included numerous meetings with citizen Policy Interest Teams. Each team discussed a topic of interest, such as parks, environmental quality, natural resources, and public facilities. During the meetings, citizens worked with staff to develop policies that will guide city actions for the next 20 years.

Values expressed by Policy Interest Teams included:

- protect the community's existing natural resources;
- preserve open space for wildlife habitat or passive recreation;
- ensure that growth does not negatively impact public facilities and services;

- provide access to a network of parks and well-maintained bicycle/pedestrian paths;
- promote a diverse economy;
- protect residential livability;
- protect and improve the urban forest as a defining amenity for Tigard residents;
- seek citizen input on policy matters; and
- encourage energy conservation.

The Policy Interest Team values align very closely with the results from the 2007 *Community Attitudes Survey* and indicate the teams are doing a great job of developing policies that encompass the values of our community.

To complete the Comprehensive

Plan update, four topics remain to be addressed: Natural Resources, Land Use, Urbanization, and Transportation. Transportation is a key component of the plan, as traffic ranks number one among issues in the 2007 *Community Attitudes Survey*. This topic will receive extra attention as the city's Transportation System Plan is updated in late spring as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

If you have an interest in one of the remaining topics, and would like to participate on one of the teams in developing draft goals, policies, and recommended action measures, please contact Associate Planner Darren Wyss at 503-718-2442 or darren@tigard-or.gov. You can also find more information on the web at www.tigard-or.gov/2027.

And the Winner is...

Congratulations to Paul August who won the popular vote for top winner in the City of Tigard Photo Contest. His winning submission, "Tigard House," submitted under the "History" category, is shown below.



This winning photo will be featured on the front cover of the Tigard Comprehensive Plan, the City's guiding land use document for the next 20 years.

Congratulations also go out to the contest category winners listed below:

- **Places:**
"Carriage House in Autumn" by Dan Quello
- **Wildlife/Pets:**
"Friendly Deer" by Zen Dutson
- **People:**
"Lawn Bowling" by Kirsten Carnese
- **Landscape:**
"Fall Color" by Kim Brun

Photographers were asked to submit photos representing the contest theme "Tigard...a place to call home." The category winners were chosen by contest judges, and the top winner was chosen by citizens through an on-line vote. About 750 people voted,

and Paul August's submission received almost half of those votes. All contest winners were recognized and the winner was announced at the January 22 City Council meeting.

A big thank you goes out to the many talented photographers who participated in this contest. Many beautiful photos were submitted.





Tree For All!

Join in the fun at this "Tree for All" community tree planting challenge. Our goal is to plant 2,800 native trees and shrubs along Hiteon Creek in Englewood Park. This event is part of a regional challenge to install 2 million trees in the Tualatin River Watershed. Tools and gloves will be provided. Waterproof boots are recommended.

TREE FOR ALL EVENT...JOIN US!

- Saturday, March 8
 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Meet at the pathway to Englewood Park off Ironwood Loop
- Directions:** Take Scholls Ferry Road to Springwood Drive to Ironwood Loop and follow the signs.

If you'd like more information or if you are bringing a group of four or more people, please contact Volunteer and Water Quality Program Coordinator Carla Staedter at 503-718-2788 or carla@tigard-or.gov.



3rd Annual T.H.O.T. Workshop

Thursday, March 13, 12-5 p.m. @ Twality Middle School

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- * Self-Improvement *
- * Stress & Time Management *
- * Motivation & Leadership *

Teens Helping Other Teens! Want to Make a Difference?

- Plan to attend the Teens Helping Other Teens (THOT) Workshop for middle and high school students.
- Free food and snacks provided!
- Door Prizes! Fun Activities!

Applications are available now at Fowler, Twality and Tigard High. Contact Connie Raemakers at 503-431-4022 for more information.

Free Naturescaping Classes

Interested in having a beautiful yard that's easy to maintain and requires less water and fewer chemicals? Then Naturescaping is for you! Learn how to create natural landscapes, implement water-friendly gardening practices, attract beneficial wildlife, and incorporate native plants into your outdoor space.

Basic Naturescaping

Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Register by April 5

This workshop will teach participants basic Naturescaping techniques and includes a short outdoor field trip.

Naturescaping Site Planning

Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Register by May 24 - Prerequisite: Basic Naturescaping

This workshop helps participants map their property, assess their garden style and needs, do some "garden dreaming," and work on a landscape design scenario.

Both workshops will be held at the Tigard Public Library, 13500 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard. Registration is required and can be done by phone at 503-797-1842 or via email at naturescaping@yahoo.com. The Naturescaping for Clean Rivers workshops are sponsored by the Partners for Clean Water, the Joint Water Commission, and the City of Tigard.

Friends of the Tigard Library Book Sale!

Friday, February 29
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 1
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tigard Library Community Room
(13500 SW Hall Blvd.)



Are You Up for a Spring Break Adventure?

Looking for something to do during Spring Break? Check out the *Cultural Pass to Adventure* program at the library. The program offers free passes for eight different locations around Portland, including the Children's Museum, Portland Art Museum and the Japanese and Chinese gardens.

Reservations can be made up to two months in advance. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the library at 503-684-6537. Thanks to the Friends of the Tigard Library for the sponsoring the Cultural Pass program.





Shelf Life



News from the Tigard Library

13500 SW Hall Blvd.

Spring Break Festival

Family fun at the library during Spring Break! Join us for music, crafts, movies, gardening, partying and a special Saturday Adventure story time. Please call the library at 503-684-6537 or visit the library web site at www.tigard-or.gov/library for movie titles and additional information.

- **Paraguayan Harpist Antonio Centurion**
Friday, March 21, 7–8 p.m.
Community Room
- **Saturday Adventure! Story Time & Rabbit Fun with the Beatrix Potter Society**
Saturday, March 22, 1:30–2:30 p.m.
Puett Room, (all ages)
- **Flower Pot Craft**
Tuesday, March 25, 2–4 p.m.
Puett Room, (all ages)
- **Horton Hears a Who Party!**
Wednesday, March 26, 2–4 p.m.
Community Room, (grades K-4)
- **Discover the Classical Chinese Garden**
Thursday, March 27, 2–3 p.m.
Community Room, (all ages)
- **Paper Creations for Teens & Adults!**
Friday, March 28, 2–4 p.m.
Puett Room, Please call to register.
- **Movie (rated PG)**
Friday, March 28, 6–8 p.m.
Community Room
- **Movie and an Indoor Picnic (rated G)**
Saturday, March 29, Noon–1:30 p.m.
Community Room
- **Starlight Symphony Orchestra**
Sunday, March 30, 3–4:30 p.m.
Community Room

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for generously supporting the Spring Break Festival!

Tune In & Rock Out @ Your Library

With CDs to check out, free audio books to download and plenty of cool events, it's easy for teens to tune in to something fun at the library in March.



Music Fest

Thursday, March 6 from 6–8 p.m.
Community Room

Be a karaoke superstar, name that song, and make a cool MP3 cover from fabric or duct tape. Presented by the Teen Library Council, which plans teen programs and suggests new ideas about teen services.

Teen Book and Movie Discussion Group

Thursday, March 13 from 5–8 p.m.
Community Room

Read, watch and talk about *Whale Rider* by Witi Ihimaera.

Teen Anime Club

Thursday, March 20 from 5–7 p.m.
Community Room

Watch anime, review new manga, share fan artwork and hang out with other anime fans.

Teen Zine

Tigard teens are always invited to submit items for *Scratched*, the Tigard Teen Zine. Submit your original book reviews, short stories, poems, drawings, photography, song lyrics, comic strips and editorials by bringing them to the Young Adult Desk or emailing them to annabr@tigard-or.gov. Look for information about a zine workshop coming soon!

For more events and information, check out the Tigard Teen Blog at <http://tpltigardteen.blogspot.com/> or call Anna Bruce at 503-718-2812.

SUPER TUESDAY! Common Pulse Rhythm Circle Tuesday, March 4, 7–8 p.m. Community Room (all ages)

Dave Chiller will lead the audience in a group rhythm circle using a dynamic combination of percussion instruments, voice, clapping and movement.

SATURDAY ADVENTURES: Celebrate Your Name with Crafts & Activities Saturday, March 8, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Puett Room, (all ages)

There will
be a short Story Time
break the week of
March 24–28.

Spinning Historical Tales of Ireland Saturday, March 15, 2–3 p.m., Houghton Room

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, local author Louise Gherasim will spin some historical tales from her native Ireland.



Information for Seniors: Adeo In-Home Care Wednesday, March 12, 2:30–3:30 p.m. Conference Room

Kevin Call of Adeo In-Home Care will talk about the services for seniors and their families to help with medical and health issues. Such services may enable seniors to stay in their homes and maintain their independence.

This is the second of five information seminars for seniors that the library will host in Spring and Summer 2008.



From the Desk of Representative Larry Galizio

How often should the Oregon Legislature meet? If you're anything like my neighbor, the answer is "never."

However, as long as Oregon does have a legislative branch consisting of 60 representatives and 30 senators, the debate concerning annual versus biennial sessions continues.

By the time this issue of Cityscape arrives in your mailbox, your state legislature will have completed a February supplemental session. The primary purpose of the February, 2008 session was to address significant issues such as: state police funding; the subprime mortgage crisis; and increased support for seniors, veterans, and Oregonians with disabilities. However, another reason for the session was to discuss the idea of annual legislative sessions.

In 1859, when Oregon became a state, the Constitution directed the state legislature to meet once every two years (biennial sessions). Typically this meant that the legislature convened in January

of odd-numbered years (most recently in 2007), and adjourned sometime in June or July of that same year. It is only through "Emergency Sessions" that the legislature is called back to conduct state business.

Today, Oregon is one of only six states to continue this tradition of biennial legislative sessions. Arkansas, Nevada, Texas, North Dakota, and Montana are the other states that meet once every two years.

In 1859, the population of Oregon was 52,465, and the state budget \$72,545. Today, approximately 3.6 million people live in Oregon, and the 2007-09 budget for the state is \$49.2 billion.

There are a multiplicity of issues to consider in contemplating Oregon's possible switch to annual sessions. What do you think? Email your comments to State Senator Larry Galizio at rep.larrygalizio@state.or.us or plan to attend Representative Galizio's Town Hall on March 22. Details below!

A Town Hall...Featuring Representative Larry Galizio

State Representative Galizio Wants Your Feedback!

DATE: Saturday, March 22nd
TIME: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
LOCATION: Tigard City Hall
(13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard)
PURPOSE: To review the results of the February Legislative session

Representative Galizio wants to get feedback from constituents about how the session fared, talk about the new laws passed and find out where folks in his district stand on annual sessions.

You're Invited to a Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, April 3
7 to 8:30 p.m.
Tigard High Cafeteria**

**Sponsored by:
Tigard Turns the Tide
Community Coalition**

**Issue:
Under-Age Drinking**



Be a Part of the Solution!

Alcohol use among children and adolescents starts early and increases rapidly with age. On an average day in 2006, over 7,970 teens drank alcohol for the first time.

As part of a national effort to help communities stop underage drinking, a series of Town Hall Meetings will take place across America between March 31 and April 4, 2008.

These Town Hall Meetings are part of a national effort to increase understanding and awareness of underage drinking and its consequences, and to encourage individuals, families, and communities to address the problem.

**Join us April 3 at 7 p.m. at the
High School Cafeteria!**



RULES of the ROAD: U-Turns...When in Doubt, Don't!

Suppose you're driving down an unfamiliar residential street in Tigard and realize that you made a wrong turn at a traffic signal a few blocks back. There's a stop sign at an intersection a quarter mile ahead of you, but there are no other vehicles on the road for at least 500 feet in either direction. Can you legally make a U-turn?

Under Oregon law, the clear answer is "no." The Rules of the Road prohibit U-turns "between intersections" in a city (ORS 811.365). U-turns are also prohibited in intersections controlled by an "electrical signal" (traffic light) unless an official sign permits them.

Can you drive up to the stop

sign and make a U-turn within that intersection? Yes, apparently, as long as approaching drivers can see you from a distance of at least 500 feet.

There are few places in urban areas where U-turns are permitted under Oregon law. Violations are subject to a base fine of \$150, or \$250 if the illegal turn "contributes to an accident."

In areas "outside a city," the law is less strict. You can make a U-turn if approaching drivers can see you from a distance of at least 1,000 feet "from either direction."

In just about every state, a U-turn is defined as turning a vehicle "so as to proceed in the opposite direction." Compared to its neighbors, though,

Oregon has a very restrictive U-turn law as well as relatively low speed limits on freeways.

Why aren't traffic laws uniform from state to state? With a few exceptions, like the former "federal maximum speed limit" of 55 mph, traffic laws have traditionally been left to the states. In a highly mobile society, however, it may not be realistic for drivers to familiarize themselves with Oregon's 772-page Vehicle Code before they enter its borders. The safest rule may be: if there's even the slightest doubt that it's legal, don't make that U-turn.

By JUDGE MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN
TIGARD MUNICIPAL COURT

Lighted Crosswalks: New and Improved!

The existing lighted crosswalk system on 121st Avenue at Springwood Drive will be replaced with new, energy efficient and low maintenance components. This marked crossing connects the residential area east of 121st Avenue with the commercial and retail complex west of the street, and is heavily used by pedestrians. The replacement is anticipated in late March or early April 2008.



Advance Warning Beacon/
Sign to be installed 300 feet
in advance of the crosswalk

In addition to replacement of the existing system, beacons will be added at the crossing for additional visibility to motorists. The much longer life span of the light emitting diodes (LEDs) used in the beacons and the in-pavement lights will not only reduce energy consumption but will greatly reduce maintenance costs.

The final installed system will consist of twelve in-pavement lights, two pole-mounted beacons (one on each side of the street) at the crossing, and a pole-mounted warning beacon 300 feet in advance of the crosswalk in each direction of travel. Both the in-pavement lights and the beacons will be activated by push-buttons located on each pole at the crossing. The new system, once installed, should greatly enhance safe pedestrian crossing at this location.

Pedestrians should never rely solely on crosswalk signals, traffic signals, warning beacons or any other traffic control devices

for their personal safety. After activating crosswalk lights, pedestrians should look both ways for approaching vehicles and wait for them to stop before crossing a street.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Project Manager Vannie Nguyen, P.E. at 503-718-2460 or vannie@tigard-or.gov.



Crossing Sign/Beacon
should greatly enhance
safe pedestrian crossing

Neighborhood Network

Neighborhood News from the West Tigard Neighborhood

Support Our Students!

The Mary Woodward Elementary PSO Casino/Auction Night is **March 1** at Crown Plaza Hotel (Kruse Way at Hwy 217/I-5)

- * Festivities start at 5:30 p.m. (No one under 18 admitted)
- * Tickets are \$30 per person. Get them while they last! Proceeds go to classroom materials and programs that directly benefit the students. **QUESTIONS?** Contact Cindy Lewis at Cindy@synthworks.com or 503-590-2490.

Home Owner's Associations!

Are you an officer or a member of a Home Owner's Association in Tigard?

Did you pick up a Neighborhood Network Informational Kick Off folder at the library on February 2? If not, "It's News You Can Use" on the Neighborhood Network program. Contact Liz Newton at 503-718-2412 or liz@tigard-or.gov to request your folder.



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Tigard, OR 97223
503-639-4171

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City Council Meetings in March

Regular Council Meetings:

- Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Tigard Town Hall (13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard)

All meetings are open to the public and agendas are available on-line at www.tigard-or.gov/council or contact Cathy Wheatley at 503-718-2410 or cathy@tigard-or.gov.

WES Provides New Commuter Choice

Learn how WES can benefit employees and business

WES (Westside Express Service), the new commuter rail service linking Beaverton and Wilsonville, is on its way in fall 2008. Now is a good time to re-think the best way to get to and from work. If you're an employer, it's a great time to review your improved transit options and develop a plan to lower commuter costs and possibly provide savings on taxes.

Operating during commute hours in the morning and afternoon, WES may be an ideal option for employees who work near one of the five WES stations.

The station locations are convenient and easy to find:

- * **Beaverton:** At the Beaverton Transit Center off Canyon Road
- * **Hall and Nimbus:** At the intersection of Hall and Nimbus in Beaverton

- * **Tigard:** At the Tigard Transit Center near Main Street and Commercial
- * **Tualatin:** Just north of the intersection of Tualatin Sherwood Road and Boones Ferry Road
- * **Wilsonville:** Just off Barbur Street on the west side of I-5

Travel time on WES from Wilsonville to the Beaverton Transit Center will be 27 minutes, providing a great connection via MAX to either Hillsboro or downtown Portland. Bus and some shuttle services will also be available. Wilsonville's SMART service will travel from the Wilsonville WES station to and from Salem.

TriMet staff is available to consult with employers and employees located along the WES alignment to demonstrate how the new service and other travel options can provide many benefits.

If you are interested in learning more about WES or want to schedule an employee transportation fair, please visit TriMet on-line at trimet.org or call 503-962-7670.



The new commuter rail platform under construction at the Tigard Transit Station